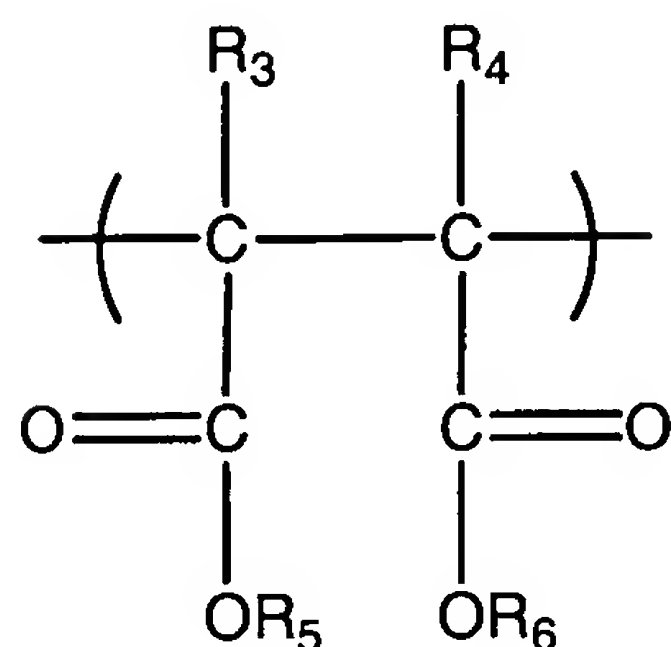


Amendments to the Claims:

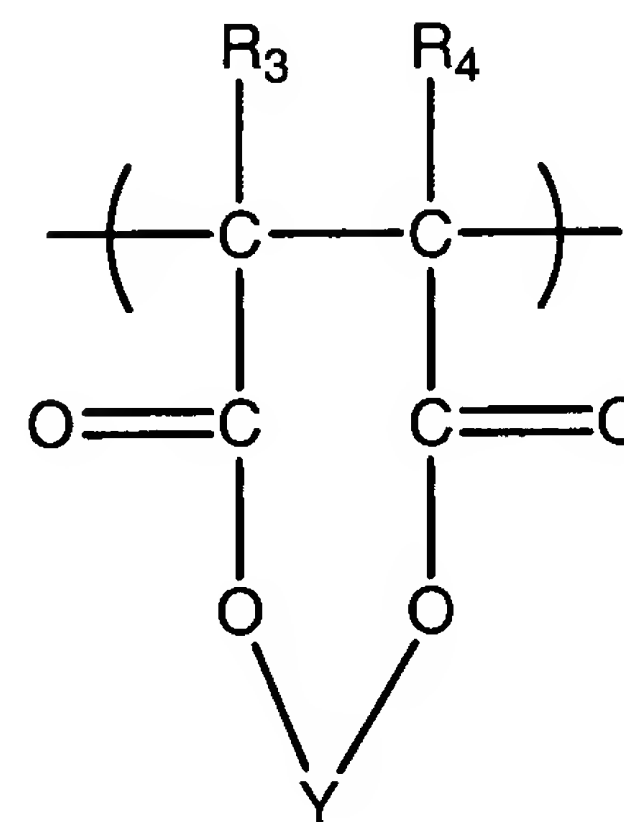
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

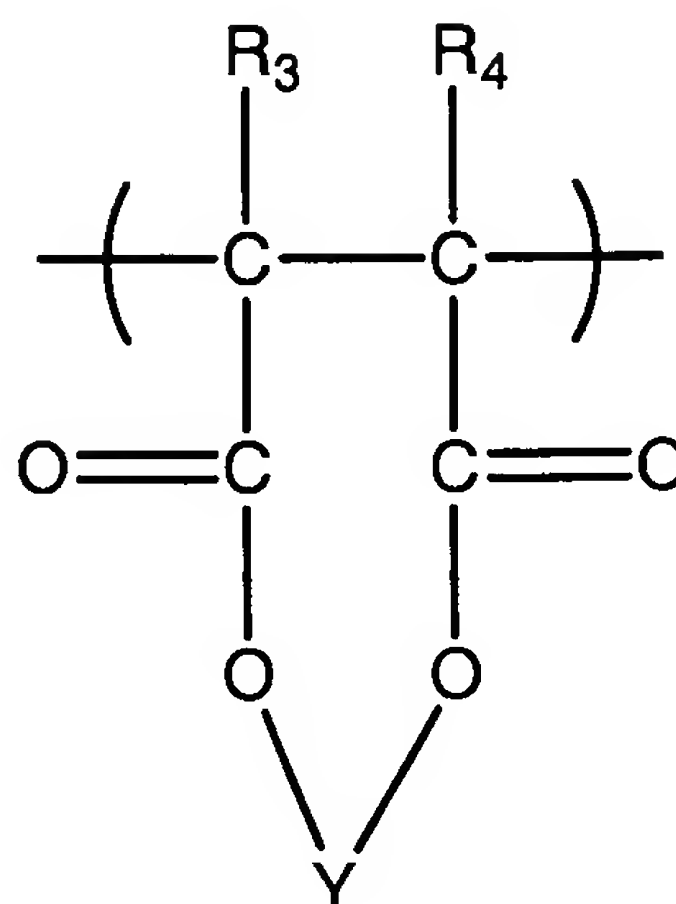
1. (Withdrawn) A method of enhancing the growth of plants comprising the step of applying to said plants, seeds of said plants, or the earth adjacent said plants a growth-enhancing amount of a composition comprising a substantially water-soluble polymer in intimate mixture with a fertilizer, said polymer comprising recurring subunits polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B, and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, where moiety B is of the general formula



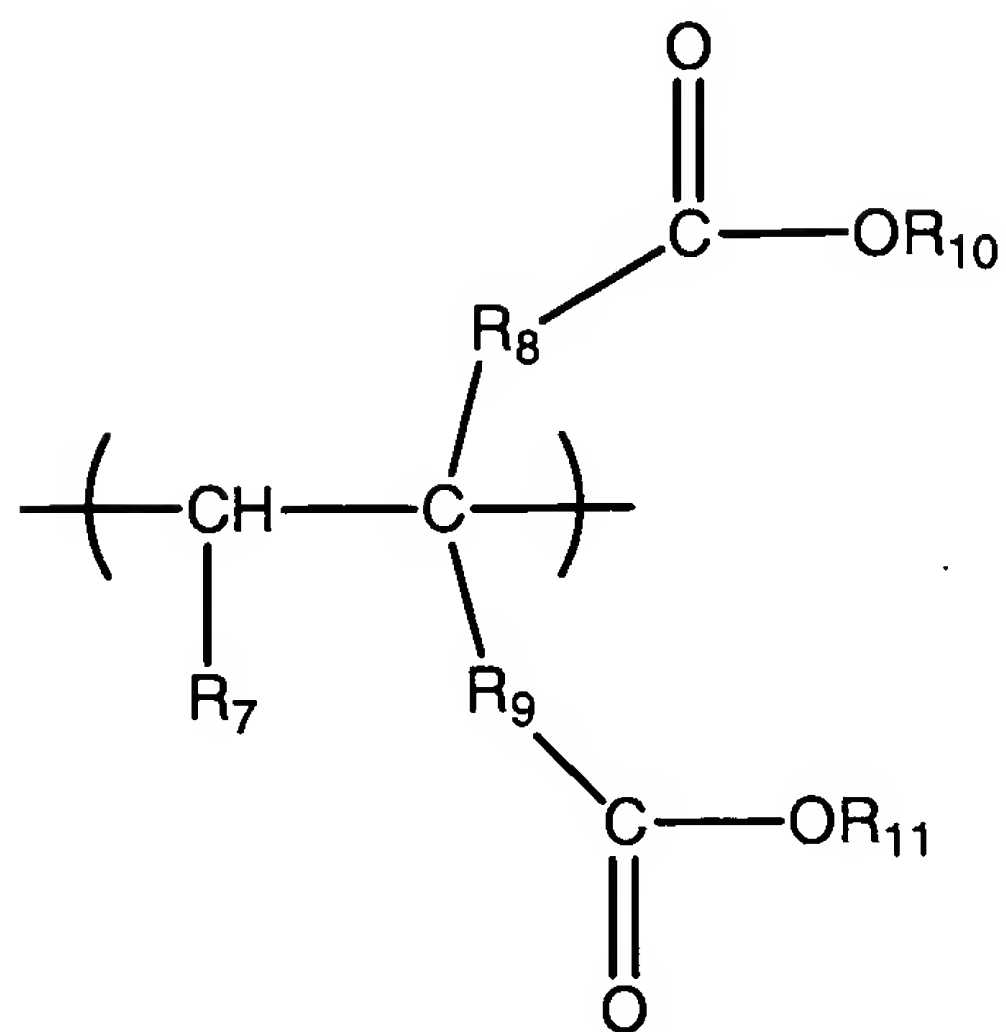
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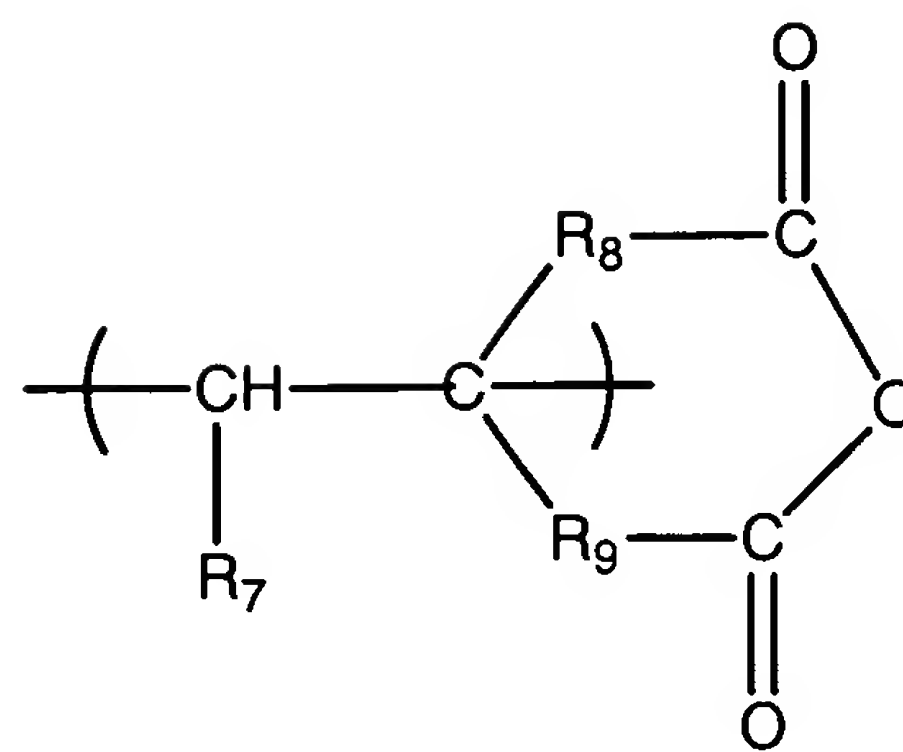
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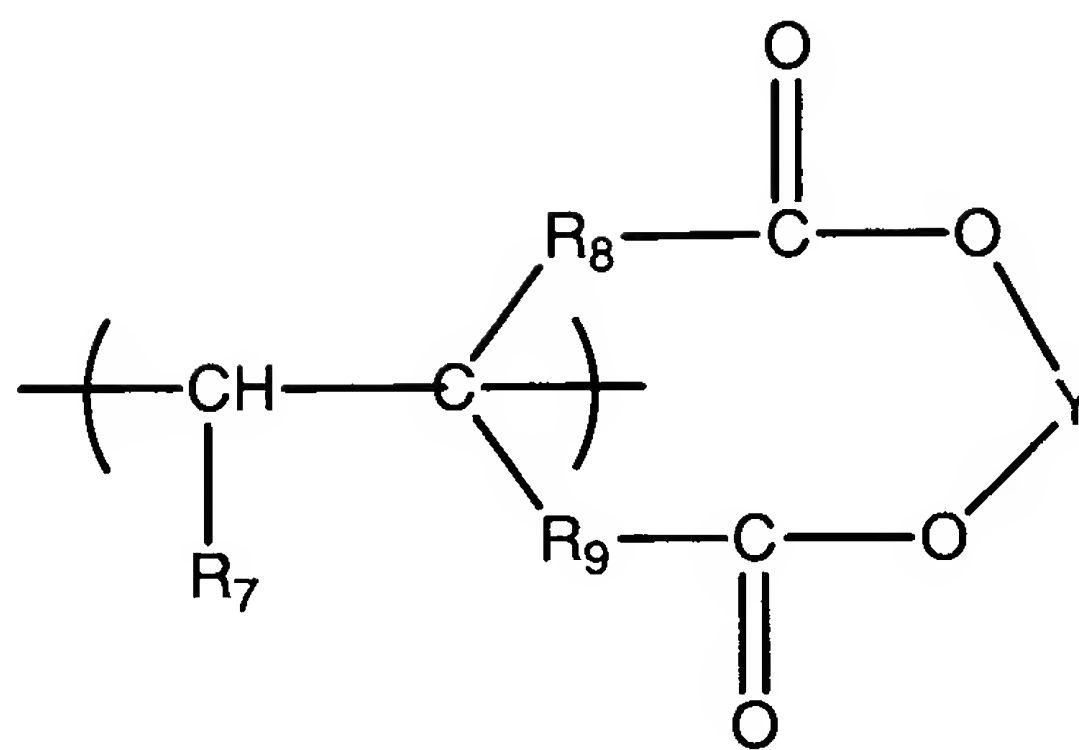
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or



wherein each R_7 is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, $R'CO_2$ groups, OR' groups and $COOX$ groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, R_3 and R_4 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R_5 , R_6 , R_{10} and R_{11} are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R_8 and R_9 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH_2 , C_2H_4 , and C_3H_6 , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and said polymer in its polymerized form being at least partially ethylenically saturated.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being applied at a level of from about 0.001 lbs. to about 100 lbs. polymer per acre of said growing plants.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being in liquid dispersion.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being in granular form.

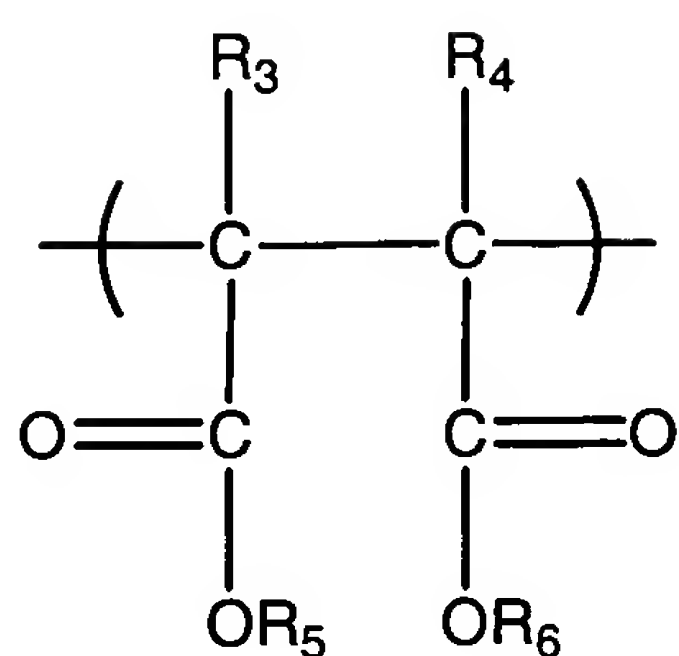
5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer and fertilizer being co-ground together.

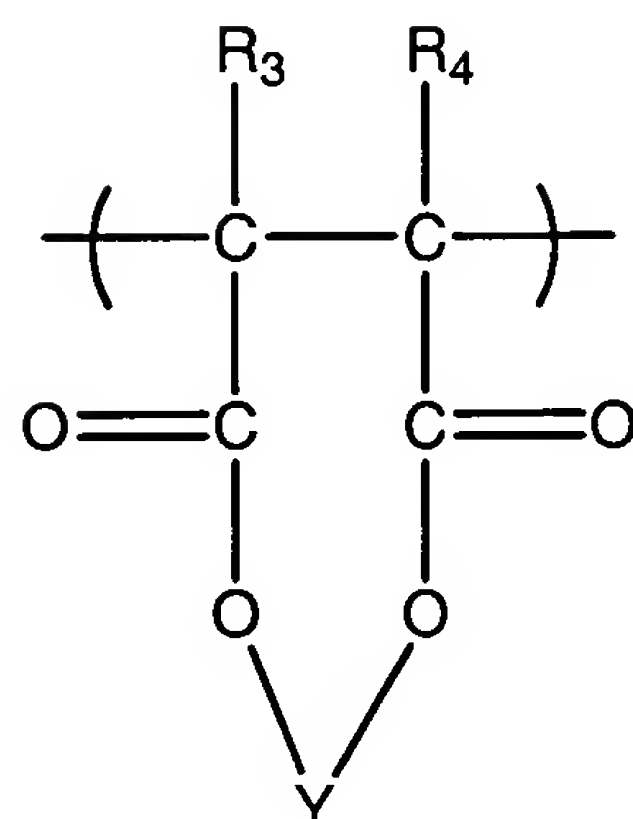
7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being applied to the surface of said fertilizer.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said fertilizer being in the form of particles having an average diameter of from about powder size to about 10 cm.

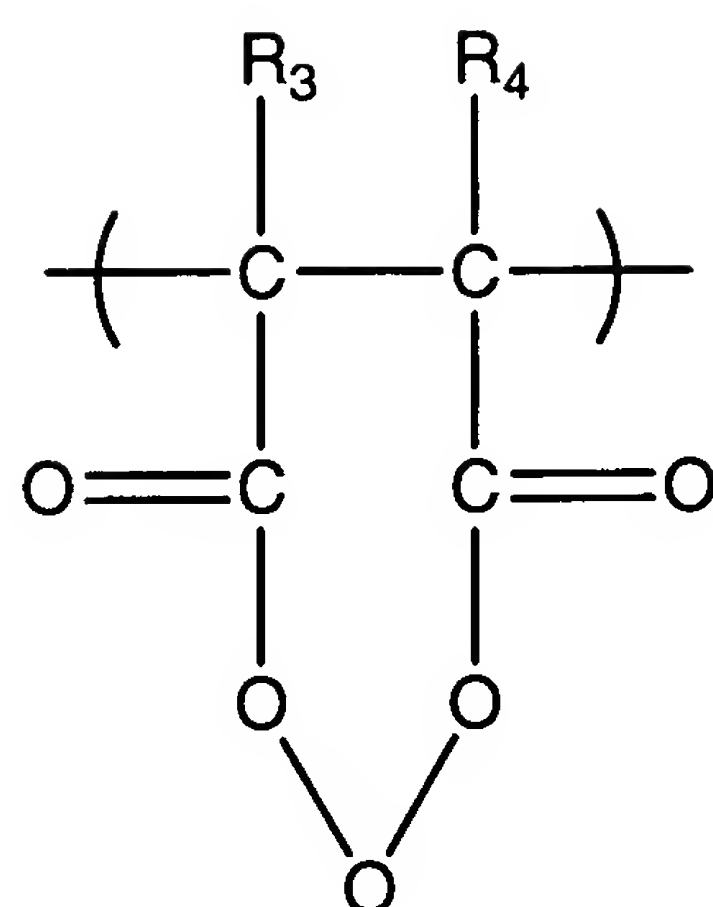
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being present with said fertilizer product at a level of from about 0.001 g to about 20 g polymer per 100 g fertilizer.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being complexed with an ion.
11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, said ion being selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca.
12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said polymer being applied at a rate of at least 5 ppm.
13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, said composition substantially coating the surface of said seeds.
14. (Withdrawn) A method of decreasing fertilizer dust comprising the step of coating fertilizer with a composition comprising a fertilizer product and a substantially water-soluble dicarboxylic acid polymer having recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, wherein moiety B is of the general formula



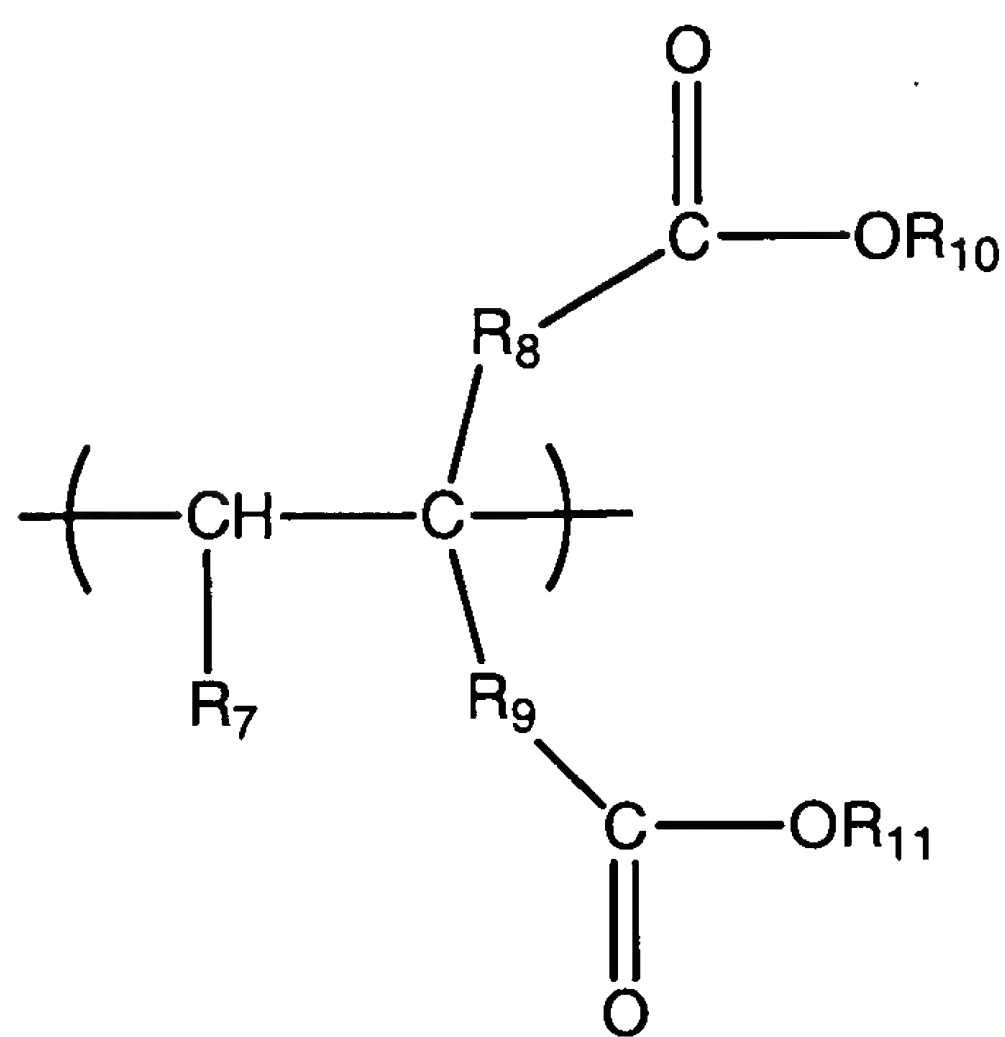
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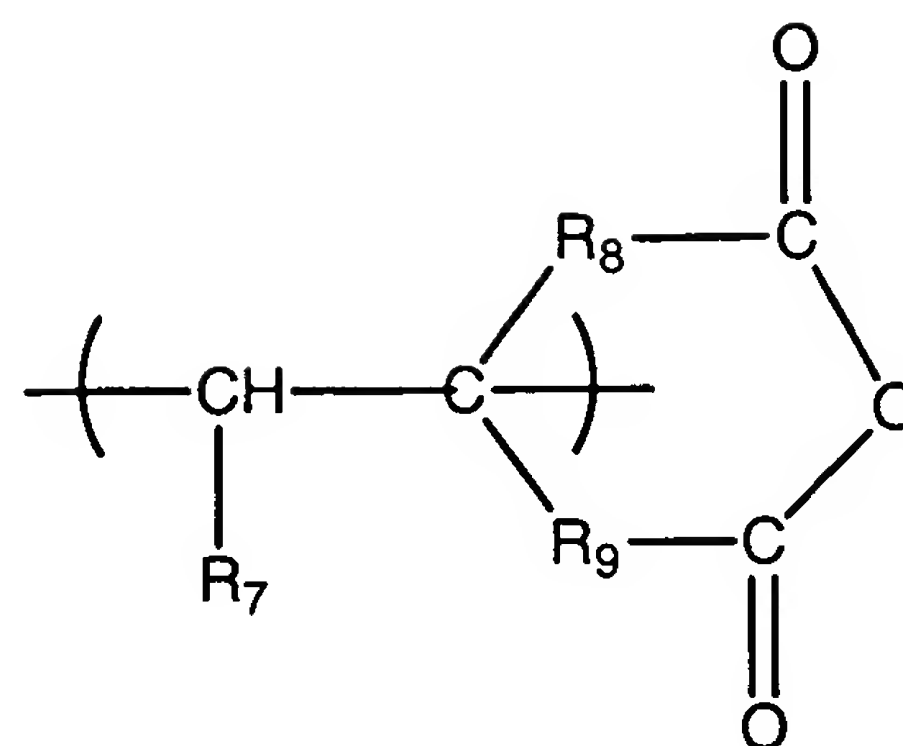
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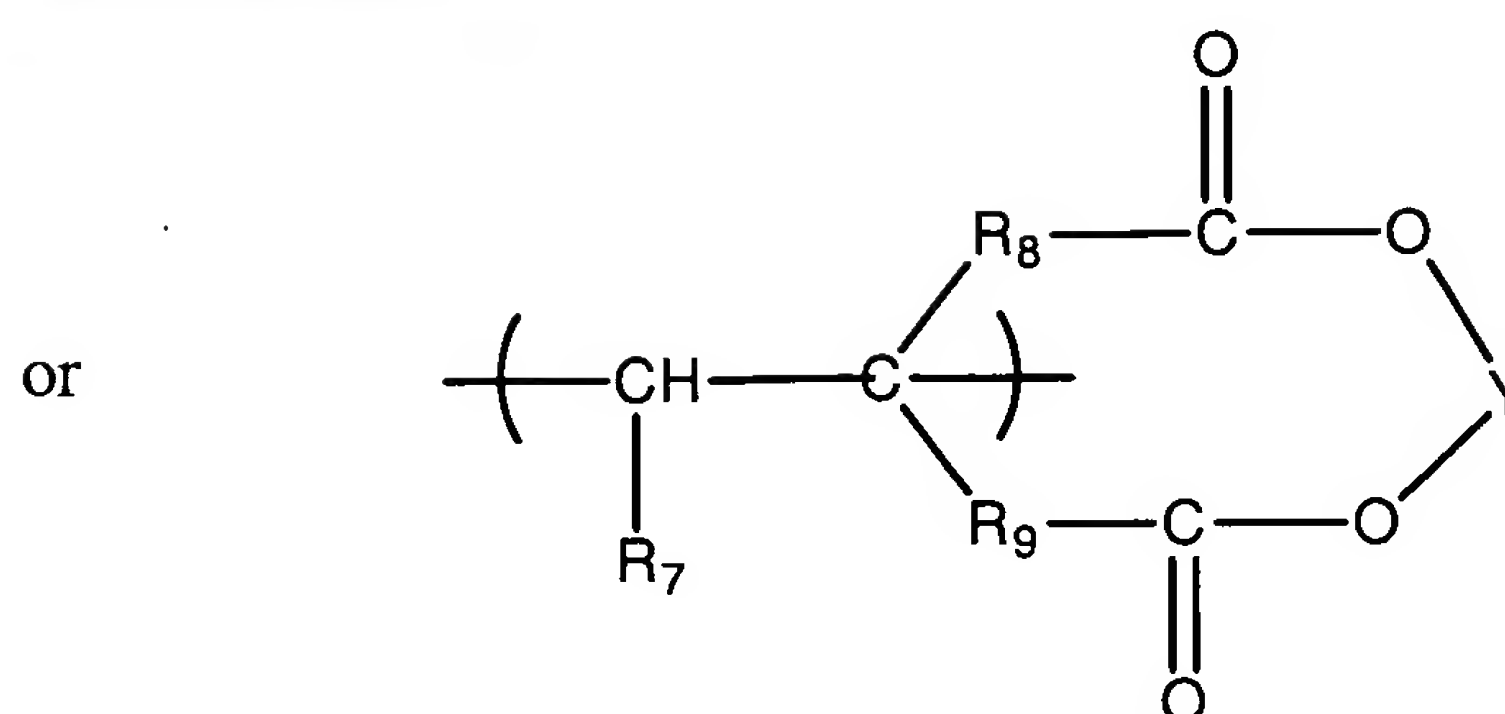


and moiety C is of the general formula



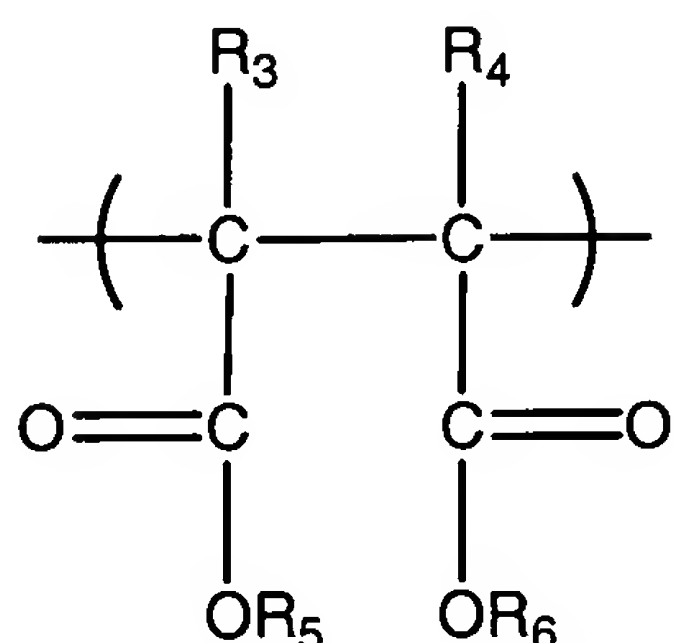
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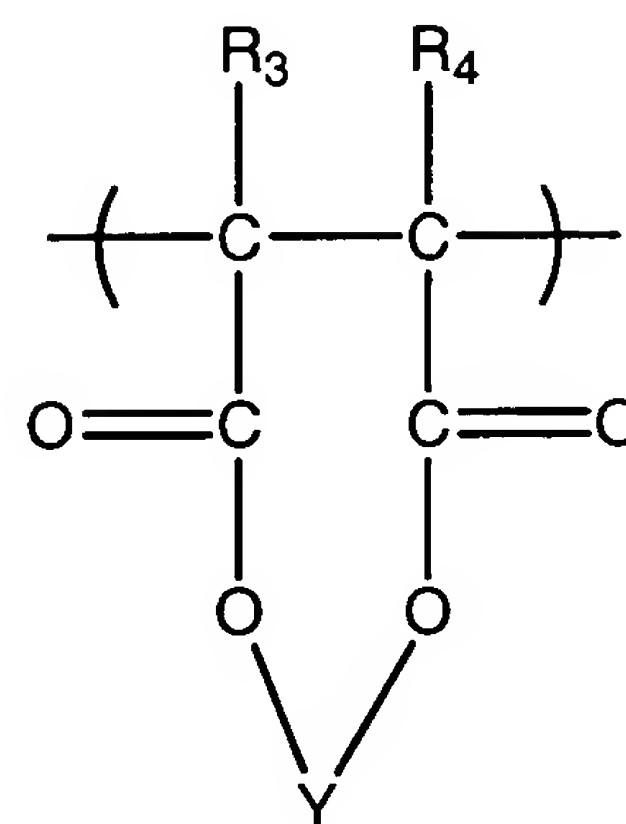


wherein each R_7 is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, $R'\text{CO}_2$ groups, OR' groups and COOX groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, R_3 and R_4 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R_5 , R_6 , R_{10} and R_{11} are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R_8 and R_9 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH_2 , C_2H_4 , and C_3H_6 , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and said polymer in its polymerized form being at least partially ethylenically saturated.

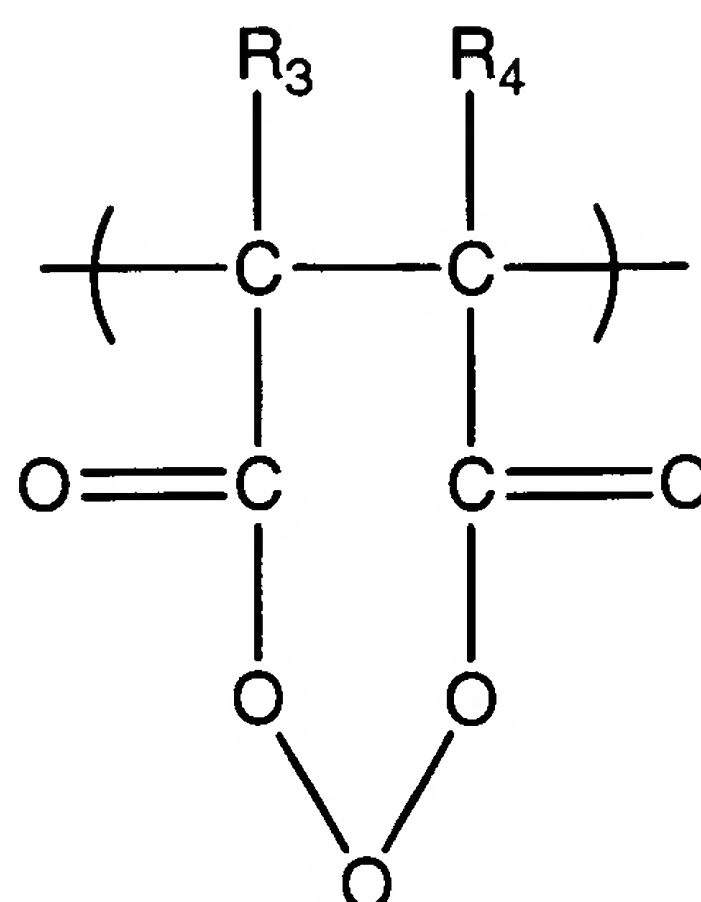
15. (Currently Amended) A composition for enhancing plant growth comprising a fertilizer product and a substantially water-soluble dicarboxylic acid polymer, said polymer being in intimate contact with said fertilizer, and having recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, wherein moiety B is of the general formula



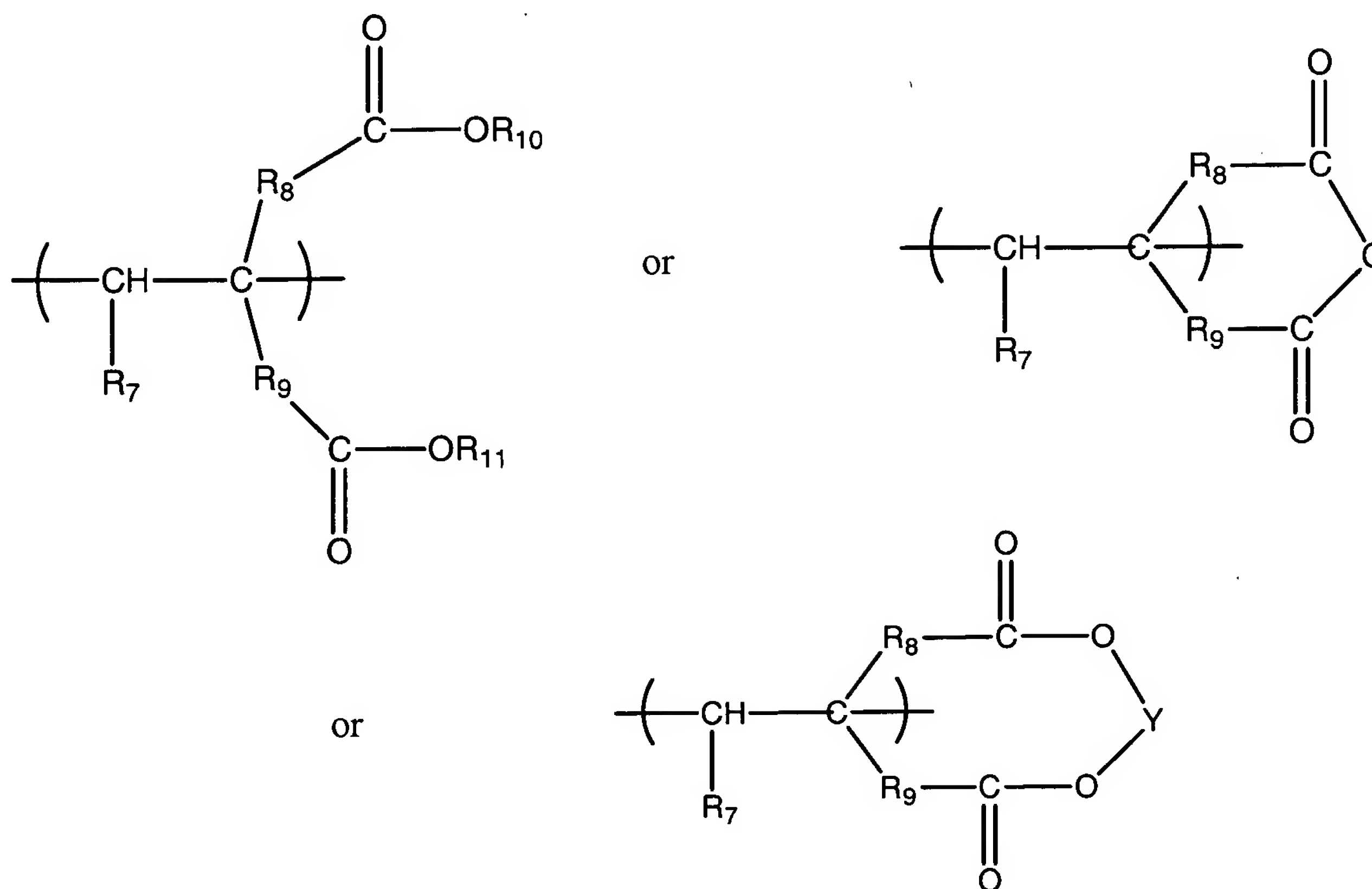
or



or



and moiety C is of the general formula



wherein each R_7 is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, $\text{R}'\text{CO}_2$ groups, OR' groups and COOX groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, R_3 and R_4 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R_5 , R_6 , R_{10} and R_{11} are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali

metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R_8 and R_9 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH_2 , C_2H_4 , and C_3H_6 , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and said polymer in its polymerized form being at least partially ethylenically saturated.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein R_3 - R_4 are respectively and individually selected from the group consisting of H, OH and C_1 - C_4 straight and branched chain alkyl groups, R_5 , R_6 and X are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of the alkali metals.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being complexed with an ion.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17, said ion being selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being in a form selected from the group consisting of a liquid dispersion or a granular form.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer and fertilizer being co-ground together.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being applied to the surface of said fertilizer.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said fertilizer being in the form of particles having an average diameter of from about powder size to about 10 cm.

24. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being present with said fertilizer product at a level of from about 0.001 g to about 20 g polymer per 100 g fertilizer.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 15, said polymer being applied at a rate of at least 5 ppm.